GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5203
ANSWERED ON:28.08.2001
GENETICALLY MODIFIED PLANTS AND FOODGRAINS
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Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain genetically modified varieties of plants and foodgrains have been developed by the Indian Scientists; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT)

(a) & b) Yes Sir, Indian scientists at several National Institutions/ Universities are working on development of Genetically Modified Plants/ Foodgrains. The work is at various developmental stages. Central Tobacco Research Institute, Rajahmundry; Bose Institute, Kolkatta; Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore; Delhi University South Campus, New Delhi; Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), New Delhi; ICAR Sub-station, Shillong; Central Potato Research Institute, Simla; Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi; Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai; Directorate of Rice Research, Hyderabad are some of the institutions involved in development of transgenic crops. Work has progressed with important research leads in tobacco, rice, mustard/ rape seed, potato, brinjal, tomato, cauliflower and pulses. These crops are expected to have improved agricultural productivity or/and enhanced nutritional quality. Although none of the Genetically Modified Plants/ Foodgrains have came to a stage of introduction into commercial agriculture, the work in potato, rape seed, pigeon pea and brinjal is in advanced stage. Transgenic potato with enhanced protein quality, quantity and increase in yield is under field evaluation.